

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance are requested.

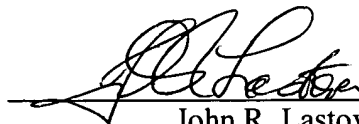
Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 14, and 23 and the allowance of claims 28-48. To expedite prosecution of this application, only the allowed claims are pending. The rejected and objected to claims are being pursued in a continuation application.

The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



John R. Lastova
Reg. No. 33,149

JRL:maa
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100